

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1 to 4 cancelled.

5. (currently amended) A tube handling device for inserting tubes into a tube filling machine, for relocating tubes within the tube filling machine, ~~and/or~~ or for removing tubes from the tube filling machine, the device comprising:

at least one movable carrier;
an adjusting device disposed on said movable carrier, said adjusting device having at least one drive device comprising two pneumatic cylinders, disposed parallel to each other, said pneumatic cylinders structured to act in opposite directions;
a transfer device having scissor action arms cooperating with said pneumatic cylinders; and
a plurality of tube grippers for grasping the tubes, said grippers disposed on said scissor arms in at least one gripper row, wherein, in response to pushing and pulling of said scissor action arms by motion of said pneumatic cylinders in a longitudinal direction of said gripper row, a drive motion of said drive device is translated by said transfer device into a relative motion of said tube grippers along said gripper row to adjust said tube grippers between a first relative position at which said grippers assume a first defined mutual separation and at least one second relative position in which said grippers assume a second defined mutual separation, wherein said pneumatic cylinders engage said scissor action arms at approximately 1/4 of a length thereof.

6. (currently amended) The tube handling device of ~~claim 4~~claim 5, wherein said scissor action arms substantially extend in a longitudinal direction of said carrier and said tube grippers are each disposed in a lower hinge point of said scissor action arms.
7. (cancelled)
8. (currently amended) The tube handling device of ~~claim 4~~claim 5, wherein a motion of said pneumatic cylinders is synchronized.